



Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control

*Preventing  
environmental  
damage from  
hazardous waste,  
and restoring  
contaminated  
sites for all  
Californians.*



State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, July 2006

## Soil Cleanup Workplan for the Proposed Central Los Angeles Middle School #3 School Site

You are invited to review and comment on a plan submitted by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to remove and dispose the contaminated soil from the future middle school site located in the Wilshire Center community of Los Angeles. The proposed new school will relieve overcrowding at Berendo Middle School and Virgil Middle School. The objective of the cleanup is to prevent potential exposure to the lead impacted soil by removing the soil prior to construction.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control, a department within the California Environmental Protection Agency, is responsible for overseeing the investigation and ensuring that mitigation and cleanup activities are conducted in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations.

### **This fact sheet provides information on:**

- Site History and Background
- Why Cleanup Is Necessary
- Cleanup Options
- Proposed Plan
- Safety and Dust Control During Cleanup
- Next Steps

### **Site History and Background**

The proposed school site is a 2.64-acre rectangular-shaped area bordered by West 6th Street to the north, South Shatto Place to the east, South Vermont Avenue to the west, and open space associated with the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) Wilshire/Vermont Red Line subway station to the south. The site is currently a construction zone with a vacant three-story building in the northeast corner and undisturbed landscape areas in the southeast portion of the site.

In compliance with State laws for proposed new school sites, a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) was conducted in 2002, to evaluate the Proposed Central Los Angeles Middle School #3 for potential environmental hazards and contaminants. The results of the PEA were shared with the community at a Public Hearing held by LAUSD on September 30, 2003. The DTSC approved the PEA on December 30, 2003.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD July 17, 2006 to July 31, 2006**

The Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) for this school site and other related project documents are available for review and public comment at the locations listed on page 3. Please submit written comments in the enclosed postage paid return envelope postmarked by July 31, 2006. Or, email before the deadline date no later than 5 p.m. to: Mr. Aldo Chaney, DTSC Project Manager, [achaney@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:achaney@dtsc.ca.gov)



During a more recent Supplemental Site Investigation (SSI), lead was found in two locations at elevated concentrations that require cleanup (please see figure on page 2). Elevated lead concentrations were detected at depths up to 3.5 feet below ground in tree planters along the north and east sides of the three-story building.

### Why Cleanup is Necessary

While lead occurs naturally in Southern California soils, exposure to elevated levels of this metal could cause adverse health effects. The elevated levels found at the proposed school site may have resulted from former uses of the site, such as the use of lead-based paint on the three-story building.

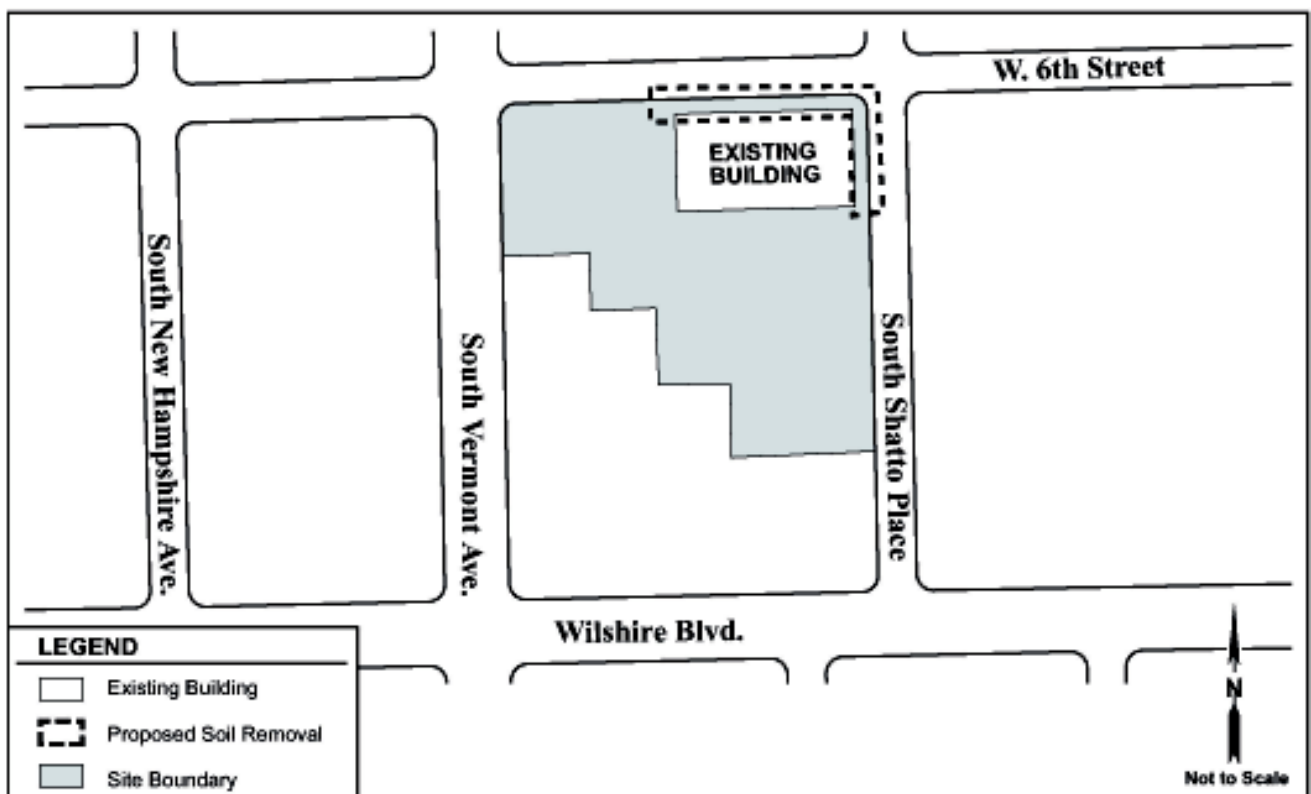
There is no immediate health risk, since the public is not currently exposed to the soil contamination. However, DTSC recommended that the District prepare a cleanup plan to remove the contaminated soil to protect the students and staff who will attend the new school. DTSC will oversee the removal action and will ensure that it is performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

### Notice of Exemption

DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The NOE document states that the proposed cleanup will not have a significant negative effect on human health and the environment because of the short duration, relatively small amount of contaminated soil to be removed and the controlled way in which the contaminated soils will be dug out, loaded onto trucks and taken away to an approved/permitted facility for disposal.

### Proposed Plan

The contaminated soil will be dug out using conventional earth moving equipment such as excavators, backhoes, and/or front-end loaders. Small amounts of soil may be removed and handled with hand tools. The soil will be loaded directly onto trucks and taken off-site. Onsite soil stockpiling for long durations is not anticipated. Approximately 100 cubic yards (150 tons) of soil will be removed.



It will take approximately six truckloads to remove the soil. Trucks will enter and exit the work areas from Shatto Place. The soil will be transported to a State approved disposal facility. The cleanup process is expected to take approximately one week to complete. This includes soil removal, transportation, and confirmation soil sampling and analysis.

### **Safety and Dust Control During Cleanup**

Some of the actions the District will take to ensure safety of the public and to minimize dust include:

- Temporary fencing with windscreens will be installed for security
- All vehicles will maintain slow speeds while on the property
- The work areas will be lightly sprayed or misted with clean water to prevent dust
- The trucks will be secured with covers as they leave the site
- The air will be monitored at the site to ensure the amount of dust stays at safe levels

### **Next Steps**

Once the Comment Period ends, DTSC will evaluate all comments received. If necessary, the District will revise the RAW for DTSC's review and approval for implementation. The soil removal is expected to take place in August 2006. After the cleanup process is completed, the District will conduct soil testing to confirm cleanup goals have been achieved and submit a Removal Action Completion Report to our Agency for review and approval. A copy of this report will be available at the locations identified below.

### **Where to Find Site Documents**

The Draft RAW and other site documents are available for your review at the following locations:

#### **Commonwealth Elementary School**

Main Office, 215 S. Commonwealth Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90004, (213) 384-2546

#### **Pio Pico – Koreatown Library**

694 S. Oxford Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90005  
(213) 368-7647

Monday & Wednesday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday: Noon – 8 p.m.

Friday & Saturday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

### **Department of Toxic Substances Control**

Regional Records Office

1011 N. Grandview Ave.

Glendale, CA 91201

Contact: Jone Barrio, (818) 551-2886

Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday - Friday

### **Los Angeles Unified School District**

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

1055 W. 7th St., 9th Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90017

Contact: Ron Cavagrotti, (213) 893-7405

The documents are also available online at the

LAUSD web site: [www.laschools.org/find-a-school](http://www.laschools.org/find-a-school)

### **Who to Contact for Information**

If you have any questions about the project or cleanup activities, please contact the following persons:

Ms. Jeanne Matsumoto

DTSC Public Participation Specialist

(714) 484-5338 or [jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov)

Mr. Aldo Chaney

DTSC Project Manager

(818) 551-2972 or [achaney@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:achaney@dtsc.ca.gov)

**Si desea información en español, comuníquese con el: Sr. Javier Hinojosa, Jefe, Unidad Escolar – Glendale del DTSC, al (818) 551-2172.**

### **For Media Inquiries:**

Ms. Jeanne Garcia

DTSC Public Information Officer

(818) 551-2176 or [jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov)

### **Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals**

You can obtain additional information about the site

by using the California State Relay Service at

(888) 877-5378 (TDD), or by calling Ms. Jeanne

Matsumoto, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at

(714) 484-5338.

